



WEEKLY ECONOMIC DIGEST

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

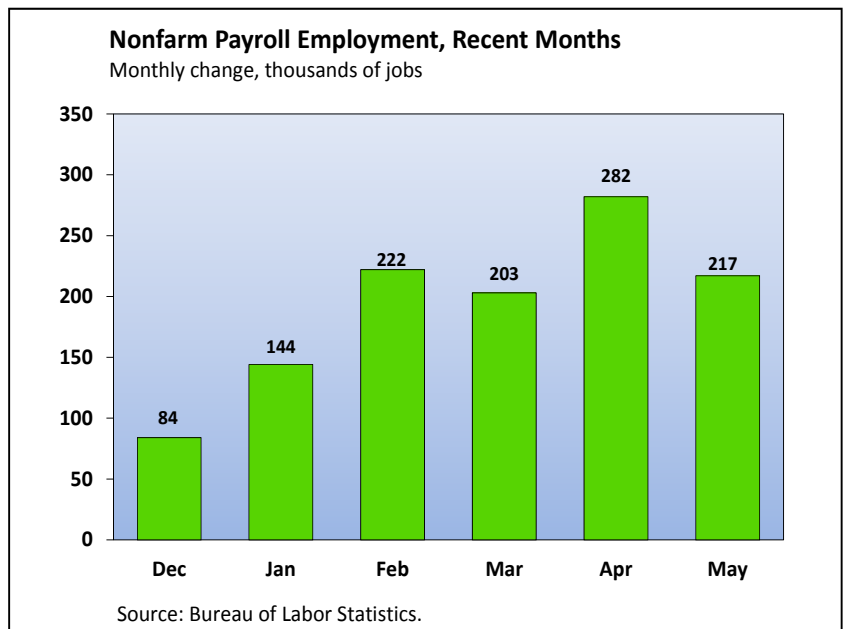
Sen. Amy Klobuchar, Vice Chair
Rep. Carolyn Maloney, Senior Democratic House Member

June 10, 2014

Solid Job Gains Continued in May

Job growth exceeded 200,000 for a fourth consecutive month

- Nonfarm employment rose by 217,000 jobs in May according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (see chart).
- Job growth has averaged 231,000 jobs per month since February, up from the average of 190,000 jobs per month over the preceding 12 months.
- Nonfarm employment has now surpassed the pre-recession peak reached in December 2007.
- Job gains in May were concentrated in private service-providing industries, particularly in education and health, professional business services and leisure and hospitality.
- The average weekly earnings of workers in private nonfarm businesses rose in May, and earnings are now 2.1 percent higher than a year earlier.



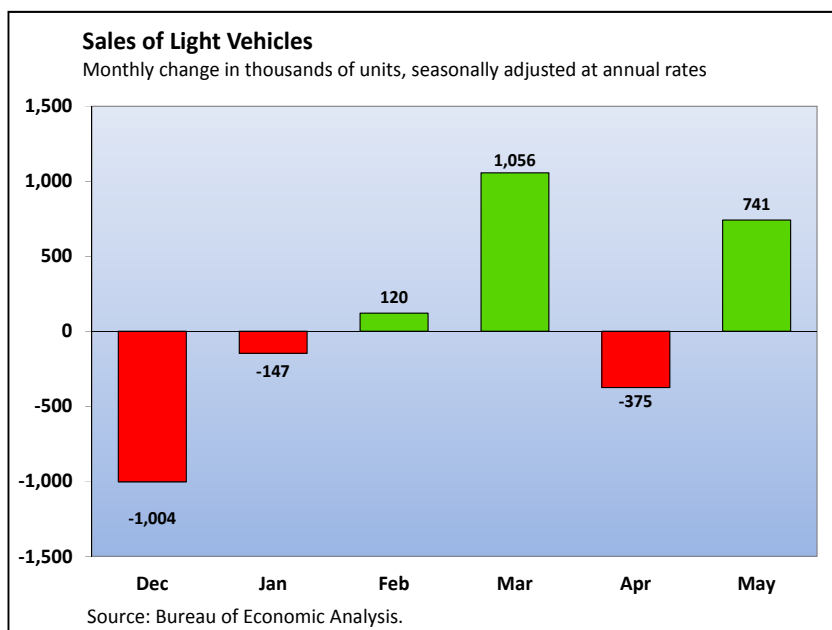
Unemployment was unchanged in May

- The unemployment rate averaged 6.3 percent of the civilian labor force last month, the same as in April. Both labor force participation and the fraction of the population with a job were unchanged.
- Long-term unemployment remained high in May: 2.2 percent of the labor force had been out of work for at least six months.

WEEKLY ECONOMIC DIGEST

Vehicle sales rose in May

- Total U.S. sales of light vehicles (autos and light trucks) increased by 741,000 units in May (see chart).
- Nearly three-quarters of the increased vehicle sales in May reflected sales of domestically-produced vehicles.
- Sales of light vehicles have risen by nearly 1.3 million units (8.3 percent) over the past 12 months.
- Two-thirds of those sales were light trucks, which are typically more expensive than automobiles.



Student debt is rising sharply and college costs are climbing

- Student debt has more than doubled since the end of 2007 and, at more than \$1.1 trillion in the first quarter of this year, it is the second largest category of personal debt (behind home mortgages).
- More than 70 percent of college graduates in 2012 had debt, totaling nearly \$30,000 on average.
- The average annual cost of attending a four-year college was nearly \$24,000 during the 2012-2013 school year, while it was less than \$9,500 during the 1980-1981 school year (adjusted for inflation).

THE ECONOMY AT A GLANCE

Key Indicators	Months			Quarters			Years	
	May	Apr.	Mar.	2014-Q1	2013-Q4	2013-Q3	2013	2012
Real GDP growth (%)	—	—	—	-1.0	2.6	4.1	2.6	2.0
Unemployment (% of labor force)	6.3	6.3	6.7	6.7	7.0	7.3	7.0	7.8
Long-term unemployment (% of labor force)	2.2	2.2	2.4	2.4	2.6	2.7	2.6	3.1
Inflation (%)	N/A	0.3	0.2	1.9	1.1	2.2	1.2	1.9
Core inflation (% excludes food & energy)	N/A	0.2	0.2	1.6	1.6	1.8	1.7	1.9

Sources: Staff estimates based on data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Notes: (—) Real GDP data are not released on a monthly basis. (n.a.) Data are not yet available.

Real GDP growth is the change in gross domestic product after adjusting for inflation. Long-term unemployment refers to those workers who have been unemployed for 27 weeks or longer. Inflation and core inflation refer to changes in the relevant consumer price indexes for all urban consumers. Quarterly estimates of GDP growth and inflation are reported at annual rates. Yearly estimates of GDP growth and inflation are Q4-to-Q4.

Yearly unemployment rate estimates are Q4 averages.